



**DIVISION OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES
STATEWIDE STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM NEWSLETTER**

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Star Student New V3e Release (0606.0): What to Expect

The upcoming new release of Star Student V3e (0606.0), that will be implemented in Tennessee school districts in late January 2007, includes a variety of enhanced features and an updated user interface for improved ease of use and secure access. While the V3e release provides for a new look and feel to Star Student, the basic functionality of the application itself is primarily unchanged. Following are some of the enhancements that you can expect to see when the 0606.0 version is implemented in January.

Star Student:

- On screen, left side, tiered navigation structure that remains visible at all times and displays only the information the user has permission to view or access, similar to the look and navigation of a Web page.
- Users will no longer need to click on 'navigate' first to select menu items.
- In many cases, the lists of sub-menu items or records now appear in alphabetical order in the menu list.
- Minor modifications have been made to a few menu names (i.e. Academic History = History, Grade Reporting = Grading, etc.).
- **User lock-out will occur after three failed log-in attempts** for increased security, similar to what is currently used in most TN applications.
- The district DBA (Data Base Administrator) is now referred to as the Application Administrator (AA). The district AA will have the ability to post notifications on the log-in screen to broadcast information to a specific set of users in their district.
- The school level AA for each school will have the ability to post notifications to users in their individual schools.
- Enhanced color coding features that include a new main color palate (tan, sage and federal blue) and additional visual cues, such as color coding for grades or student specific medical alerts, etc. A color change on the left navigational side alerts you when you have logged into a different school year than your default year.
- The 'Commons' menu list is now referred to as 'Favorites' and functions in much the same way as you designate your 'favorites' on the internet.
- To assist with data entry, for example when enrolling new students, mandatory data entry fields are now highlighted.



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- A new screen set-up allows users to keep multiple pages open and to toggle between pages while keeping their working window visible.
- Enhanced search features enable users to more easily locate teacher, student and class information.
- An Oracle error library will be available to users online that provides a more descriptive definition of the errors encountered.
- Medical Module includes new hearing, vision, scoliosis, and diabetes record screens, and a new medical mass posting routine.

Important Note: Due to the new screen enhancements in the 0606.0 version, for optimal viewing when the new release is implemented, set the screen resolution on all user machines to 1024 x 768.

Portal:

- GradeBook Portal - changes include a more streamlined screen view, the ability to run the Grade Calculation Routine on the Post Grades screen, post elementary grades (Evaluations) and traits; and when using alpha grades - the option to use the actual gradebook average or the mid-point grade, etc.

All users are encouraged to take a moment to preview the new look and feel of the 0606.0 version prior to its implementation. Following is information to access a demo.

A brief demonstration (approximately six minutes) of the Star Student V3e (0606.0) product version is available on Century's website. To preview the new look and feel of the system, go to Century Consultants' **User Only** section on their website. Be sure to adjust the volume on your machine to hear the audio portion:

<http://www.centuryltd.com>

Login: tenn Password: tenn

Click on Star Student V3e Tutorial

Database Capacity and System Support Updates

In a continuing effort to provide greater stability to the SSMS, 16 additional processors have been ordered and will be installed during the month of January. The addition of these processors will triple the original database capacity as we began the current school year with 16 processors and added 16 more processors in September. This will bring the total number of processors in place to 48.

Additionally, we are in the process of providing training for an SDE staff person to become an Application Server Administrator for the Project Support Team to aide in performance tuning



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and trouble shooting application errors. In a further effort to ensure that this expertise exists for all components of the project and to provide multiple layers of system support, both Century Consultants and PCG have been asked to provide a similar staff person as well. Oracle experts will also be on hand periodically to work with the system support staff on some problems and assist with training courses.

In anticipation of the upcoming typical January peak user load, during this period we will be employing a more focused and proactive approach to monitoring overall host site performance and in trouble shooting both database and application errors that impact the availability and stability of the system. System support staff from the SDE, OIR, Century, PCG, Oracle, as well as other project team staff will all be actively involved in a “swat team” approach to monitor and resolve host site problems as expeditiously as possible during this peak load period. It is our hope that this focused approach, coupled with the additional processors, will help to minimize, if not eliminate, the types of performance problems encountered during previous peak periods as we remain firmly committed to continue working diligently to provide users with a reliable SSMS.

Phase IV Implementation Underway

Welcome aboard to the five school districts (Jefferson, Obion, Sevier, Trousdale, and Tullahoma) and the Tennessee School for Deaf that will be implementing the SSMS beginning in the 2007-08 school year. This brings the total number of participants in the SSMS to 104 school districts, in addition to the four State Special Schools and the Department of Children Services. The initial round of data conversion and training for Phase IV districts will begin in January 2007 for Star Student. Training for the EasyIEP component will begin in January as well.

Phase III districts are in the process of completing the final round of data conversion (discipline data). Training for Phase III districts will conclude this Spring with a WebEx Scheduling Refresher course (dates and times TBD).

Timothy K. Webb, Ed.D.
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